REMARKS

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 14 was objected to, and claims 1-13 and 15-25 were rejected.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-14 and 16-25 have been amended and claim 15 is cancelled without prejudice. New claims 26-28 have been added. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below. Thus, claims 1-14 and 16-28 are pending and under consideration.

II.   ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 8 of the outstanding Office Action, claim 14 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 14 is rewritten as new independent claim 26 and includes features of intervening claims 1, 12 and 13. Thus, new claim 26 is allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of independent claim 1, upon which claim 14 depends, is traversed below and thus, claim 14 is allowable.

III.   REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:

Claim 16 is amended herein to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 16 is overcome.

IV.   REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22 and 25 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,933 (Durst).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1and 22 amended recite, "a viewing-access-log recording server... obtaining the published information viewed on said information terminal over the communication network and an access date/time to the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing the viewing-access-log obtained by the viewing-access-log obtaining function" (claims 1, 18, 23 and 25) and "a publishing-access-log recording server... obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published

information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information, and a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function" (claims 1, 18, 22, 23 and 25).

Durst provides data content such as a web page related to an item from a networked content server using a linkage code associated with the item (see, col. 4, line 65 through col. 5, line 8). Then, a server identification code is extracted from the linkage code to obtain a URL template associated with the server identification code that includes a name of an information server and at least one parameter field to be completed by the client computer (see, col. 3, lines 5-25). The Durst information server utility program decodes the URL, determines the data content associated with item as entered by the user, arranges for a browser to display this content to the user, and makes a record of access to each data content (see, col. 6, lines 40-52).

Durst does not teach or suggest, "obtaining the published information viewed on said information terminal over the communication network and an access date/time to the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing the viewing-access-log obtained by the viewing-access-log obtaining function" (claims 1, 18, 23 and 25) and "obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information, and a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function" (claims 1, 18, 22, 23 and 25).

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims depending from claims 1, 18, 23 and 25 are also patentably distinguishable over Durst. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 8, "at least one information terminal... [is provided] for periodically having an access of viewing the published information in said information providing server in order to intentionally leave a log of the access of viewing the published information in said viewing-access-log recording server".

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22 and 25 is overcome.

V.   REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 3, 5-7, 17, 20, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Durst</u> and U.S. Patent No. 6,574,609 (<u>Downs</u>).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

<u>Downs</u> generates content data and associated metadata, transfers the content data to a content host and transmits the metadata and usage condition data for the associated content an electronic store (see, col. 3, lines 49-67). Then, the metadata or the usage condition data are altered in order to form promotional data, and the promotional data is transferred from the electronic store to a customer's system (see, col. 17, line 15 through col. 18, line 20).

The combination of <u>Durst</u> and <u>Downs</u> does not teach or suggest, "obtaining the published information viewed on said information terminal over the communication network and an access date/time to the published information as a viewing-access-log, and a viewing-access-log storing function of storing the viewing-access-log obtained by the viewing-access-log obtaining function" and "obtaining the published information and a publishing date/time of the published information as a publishing-access-log when information is published in said information providing server over the communication network and published as the published information, and a publishing-access-log storing function of storing the publishing-access-log obtained by the publishing-access-log obtaining function", as recited in independent claims 1, 18, 22, 23 and 25.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims depending from claims 1, 18, 23 and 25 are also patentably distinguishable over <u>Durst</u> and <u>Downs</u>. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claims 3 and 20, the present invention includes "a message-digest creating function of creating a message digest of the published information obtained by the viewing-access-log obtaining function, and "the viewing-access-log storing function storing the message digest as the published information in the viewing-access-log".

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3, 5-7, 17, 20, 21 and 24 is overcome.

VI.   NEW CLAIMS:

As mentioned above, new claim 26 is added herein to recite the features of claim 14 and intervening claims 1, 12 and 13, and thus, is allowable.

New claims 27-28 are added to recite a method and apparatus for of certifying a

publication including "associating information of the publication including temporal data indicative of when the publication became accessible as electronic data and access information indicative of when an access is made to the publication" and "certifying the publication in accordance with the association of the information of the publication and the access information.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 26-28 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

IV.   CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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